

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 EUR-25 MC-02 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02

DRC-01 /203 W

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P 151542Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4568

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T P O A L JERUSALEM 1137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAO TCNCOPS, PINS, ECON, IS, JO

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK

REF: JERUSALEM 1121

1. ARABS IN EAST JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED OVER GENERAL SITUATION. PREDOMINANT INITIAL REACTION TO JORDAN'S ENTRY INTO WAR WAS FEAR. THIS HAS GIVEN WAY TO GRATIFICATION, AT LEAST AMONG JORDANIAN-ORIENTED NOTABLES SUCH AS ANWAR KHATIB (FORMER JERUSALEM GOVERNOR), THAT JORDAN HAS JOINED ITS ARAB BRETHREN. EVERYONE IS RELIEVED THAT MOVE HAS NOT BROUGHT ACTUAL FIGHTING ANY CLOSER AND THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT SO FAR CLAMPED DOWN HARDER ON LOCAL ARAB POPULATION. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFIDENCE THAT ISRAEL WISHES AVOID OPENING ANOTHER LONG FRONT AND THAT CURRENT SITUATION THEREFORE LIKELY TO ENDURE.

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2. ORDINARY ARAB CITIZENS STILL WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE,

WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE JUST WHAT THAT FUTURE MAY BE.
RUMORS OF ARABS BEING BEATEN BY ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE.
ARAB WORKERS CONTINUING TO STAY AWAY DUE TO FEAR AND AS RESULT
REPEATED URGINGS ON AMMAN AND CAIRO (VOICE OF PALESTINE) RADIO
AND TV, WHICH CALLING WORK IN ISRAEL SIGN OF DISLOYALTY TO
ARAB CAUSE.

3. WE HEAR INCREASING COMPLAINT THAT FLOUR CANNOT BE BOUGHT
IN EAST JERUSALEM (OR WEST BANK) AND SUGAR AND KEROSENE ARE
ALSO IN SHORT SUPPLY. WEST JERUSALEM STORES SEEM, HOWEVER,
TO BE ADEQUATELY STOCKED. FLOUR SHORTAGE IS SOURCE OF MAJOR
WORRY AMONG ARABS SINCE BREAD IS A STAPLE IN AVERAGE DIET.

4. THERE ARE DIFFERING REPORTS RE JORDAN BRIDGES. MOST
PERSISTENT VERSION IS THAT ARABS RETURNING TO NORMAL PLACE OF
RESIDENCE, WHETHER WEST OR EAST BANK, ARE ABLE TO
CROSS BUT OTHER ARABS GENERALLY CANNOT. (WE ASUME THIS DOES
NOT LIMIT FOREIGNERS). BRIDGES NOT ENTIRELY CLOSED IN ANY EVENT.

5. WE KNOW OF ONE LARGE WEST JERUSALEM HOTEL (DIPLOMAT) THAT
IS CLOSED TO PUBLIC AND IS BEING PREPARED TO SERVE AS HOSPITAL
IF REQUIRED. UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE OTHERS. MANY EAST
JERUSALEM HOTELS AND HOSTELS HAVE CLOSED DUE TO EXODUS OF
TOURISTS (ALTHOUGH A FEW APPARENTLY ARE STILL ARRIVING).

6. BELIEF IN REPORTS OF US ARMS SUPPLY TO ISRAEL IS GROWING
AMONG ARABS, AND THEY ARE CLEARLY NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT. HAVING
THE NEWS SEEP OUT THIS WAY HAS MODERATED REACTION SO FAR,
HOWEVER. WE ANTICIPATE BARRAGE OF CRITICISM ONCE OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE CREDENCE GIVEN
HERE TO REPORTS OF US MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN FIGHTING,
PERHAPS AS RESULT BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MAKE-UP OF ISRAELI
POPULATION, I.E. FACT IT DRAWN FROM VARIOUS NATIONALITIES
AND AMERICAN-ISRAELIS MIGHT WELL BE INVOLVED.
DAY

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